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AMERICA SHOULD SUPPORT ITS ALLY, ISRAEL

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, it was a sunny day on Monday on the south lawn of the White House where I had the privilege of gathering with several thousand Americans to hear the President speak words to a troubled world.

He said, "There can be no peace in a world where differences and grievances become an excuse to target the innocent for murder." These words, Mr. Speaker, were no doubt a balm for our friends and allies in Israel, who have been suffering under the weight of an all-new escalation of mindless violence, suicide bombers killing even women and infant children returning from worship services.

So why, Mr. Speaker, did the State Department, through its spokesman, Richard Boucher, call for Israel to "exercise utmost restraint to avoid further harm to civilians"? Why did even the President yesterday say that Israel's recent military actions in self-defense were "not helpful"?

I am confused, Mr. Speaker. We should pray for the peace of Jerusalem, for those who love her of every race, but we must stand with Israel.

CALLING FOR THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO WORK TO BRING ABDUCTED AMERICAN CHILDREN HOME

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we left off with the abduction of Ludwig Koons. On June 9, 1994, against a New York court order, Ilona Staller abducted Ludwig to Italy. A bench warrant was issued in New York. Ms. Staller kept Ludwig in hiding for over a month, and Jeff Koons had no contact with his son. He did not know where he was, if he was safe, nothing.

Due to the abduction and other circumstances, Mr. Koons was awarded temporary custody of Ludwig pending a final decision by the New York Supreme Court. In the fall of 1994, the Italian authorities charged Ms. Staller with parental kidnapping pending before the Pretura Penale di Roma. However, the Italian Government stalled and stalled. Proceedings on the charge were delayed for 2 years.

In December of 1994, custody was awarded to Jeff Koons by the Supreme Court of New York. The court entered a final judgment dissolving the marriage and blaming Ms. Staller for the breakdown of the marriage, and deeming Jeff the most fit parent.

Mr. Speaker, Jeff Koons was awarded custody of Ludwig by the Supreme Court of New York, yet Italy refuses to

acknowledge this. Where is our State Department? Does anyone care? Bring Ludwig Koons and all American children home.

INS SNAFU PROVES AGAIN THAT BIG GOVERNMENT CANNOT WORK ECONOMICALLY OR EFFICIENTLY

(Mr. DUNCAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, the Immigration and Naturalization Service has had a 250 percent increase in funding over the last 8 years, about 10 times the rate of inflation over that period. Now they are trying to blame the snafu over granting student visas to two dead hijackers over 6 months after the September 11 attacks to an antiquated paper system. What a flimsy excuse.

In other words, even with a 250 percent increase in funding, they are basically saying, "If we had had even more money, we would have done better." The problem is not money, Mr. Speaker, it is a civil service system that does nothing for good, dedicated employees, but protects lazy or incompetent ones.

Also, in the private sector, the pressure is always on to do more and to do better and to do more with less. These pressures are just not there in the Federal bureaucracy, and it becomes more apparent with each passing year that big government cannot do anything in an economical or efficient way.

IN MEMORY OF LT. COMMANDER CHRISTOPHER M. BLASCHUM

(Mr. BOYD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the heroic life of Lt. Commander Christopher Michael Blaschum, also known as Basher, who was a 1984 graduate of Port St. Joe High School in Florida.

Commander Blaschum, who will be buried tomorrow with full military honors, died March 2 when his F-14 Tomcat crashed shortly after takeoff from the USS *John F. Kennedy* in the Mediterranean Sea.

It is the ultimate sacrifice when a soldier or pilot dies for his country. We are able to enjoy the freedoms we have today because of men like Commander Blaschum and the hundreds of thousands of Americans who have given their lives in the fight for American principles over the last 225 years.

Time and time again, Commander Blaschum answered the call of his country, left his family and home, and served with distinction wherever he was sent. I extend my deepest condolences and the thanks of a grateful Nation to the family he left behind: his beloved wife, Jodi; their two young sons, Jackson and Max; his mother,

Pat Johnson; and his father, Michael Blaschum.

His efforts should remind us that all the liberties we enjoy come with a price. Let us always remember those who paid that price, and always remember Commander Blaschum.

HAPPY 90TH ANNIVERSARY TO THE GIRL SCOUTS

(Mr. GUTKNECHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say happy anniversary to the Girl Scouts. Ninety years ago this week, Juliette Gordon Low convened the first Girl Scout meeting of 18 members. Ms. Low's simple but focused principle that all girls should be encouraged to develop physically, mentally, and spiritually has strengthened 50 million alumni. Right now, 2.7 million of our Nation's girls are guided by Ms. Low's principles.

In the First District of Minnesota, the Girl Scout troops are strong in number and strong in spirit. Sandy Maulkenbur of Northfield, Minnesota, has recently attended NASA training. She shared in courses on how better to teach girls science and math.

Imagine, an entire generation of American girls who are excited and prepared for education and professional service in the sciences. Sandy and 200 other adults with training from NASA will mentor Girl Scouts in science to make this possible.

The Girl Scouts have a simple promise. It is a promise all Americans can be proud to recite, and I am proud to recite it now:

"On my honor, I will try to serve God and my country, to help people at all times, and to live by the Girl Scout law."

Happy anniversary to the Girl Scouts.

URGING PRESERVATION OF COLLECTION OF MALCOLM X DOCUMENTS

(Mr. MEEKS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, recently the most extensive collection of the late Malcolm X's writings ever collaborated was found in the hands of an anonymous private owner. The undisclosed person attempted to sell the collection to the highest E-Bay bidders. Fortunately, an investigation looking into the legitimacy of how the current anonymous owner acquired the documents is pending, and the notion of selling the collection has ceased for the time being.

Prior to this pending investigation, the lot was to be auctioned off into two dozen private hands, completely dispersing the writings to unknown whereabouts, making it difficult, if not impossible, for the public to access.